



July 17, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and
Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard Coble
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and
Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers, Chairman Berman, Representative Smith and Representative Coble:

The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA") strongly supports the Patent Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1908) which is being marked up by the House Committee on the Judiciary ("Committee") this week. SIFMA has backed patent reform for many years and would like to take this opportunity at this critical junction to again emphasize our support for this important bicameral, 'non-partisan' legislation.

Patent reform is critical to the securities industry which is increasingly driven by and dependent on technology and software. These reforms are necessary for maintaining our and many related industries' competitiveness in the global marketplace. This legislation helps meet that goal by comprehensively providing for better patent quality and restoring balance and fairness to the litigation landscape.

We believe that patent reform should include: apportionment reform, post grant review, interlocutory appeals from Markman rulings, willfulness based on a reprehensible conduct standard, venue limitations, and expansion of prior use defense beyond just "methods." Finally, we believe these patent reform measures should be swiftly enacted.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and recognize the tremendous amount of dedication of your staff to get the bill this far. We urge your continued support and pledge ours on H.R. 1908 in the Committee and beyond and we respectfully ask that you oppose amendments which would mitigate the effectiveness of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott DeFife
Senior Managing Director
Government Relations

Richard Hunt
Senior Managing Director
Government Relations